

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 MMS-03 A-01

DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSR-01 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5113

INFO USCINCSO

USAFSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, UY

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF COMMANDER, USMILGP - COL. JAMES P.

MCFEETERS USAF

REF : STATE 084570

1. THE POLITICO/MILITARY PROBLEM IN URUGUAY AT THIS JUNCTURE AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS A COMPLICATED AND SENSITIVE ONE. IN ADJUSTING TO THIS NEW SITUATION ONE OF OUR RECOMMENDATIONS TO USCINCSO IS THAT THE LENGTH OF TOUR IN URUGUAY FOR MILGRP PERSONNEL BE RESTORED TO THREE YEARS INSTEAD OF THE CURRENT TWO-YEAR TOUR OF DUTY. THE SHORTER TOUR LENGTH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR ABOUT THE PAST TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF THE TERRORIST THREAT. THE DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO US SOUTHCOM FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL. INCLUDED IN THE REQUEST WERE RECOMMENDED CHANGES OF ROTATION DATES FOR INCUMBENT MILGRP PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH A THREE-YEAR TOUR LENGTH.

2. IN LINE WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS I CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE THAT COL. KERR REMAIN IN URUGUAY FOR A FULL THREE-YEAR TOUR (SEE ORTIZ TO STEDMAN LETTER OF JULY 10, 1973). THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, DR. RAVENNA, AND THREE THREE SERVICE CHIEFS HAVE INDICATED TO ME THAT THEY ALSO DESIRE THAT COL. KERR EXTEND HIS

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STAY.

3. US SOUTHCOM HAS JUST INFORMED MILGRP OF ITS CONCURRENCE
IN THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN FORWARDED TO
WASHINGTON FOR APPROVAL.

4. TO EXTEND INCUMBENT PERSONNEL WILL REQUIRE VOLUNTARY REQUESTS
FROM EACH OF THEM. IN MOST CASES THEY HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING.

5. THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS ACTION ARE FAIRLY OBVIOUS. NOT ONLY
WILL COSTS OF ROTATION BE CONSIDERABLY REDUCED BUT THE GOOD
RAPPORT EXISTING BETWEEN MILGRP PERSONNEL AND THEIR URUGUAYAN
OPPOSITE NUMBERS WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED WITHOUT
FREQUENT AND UNWISE INTERRUPTIONS.

Y. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, I HAVE NOT TAKEN ACTION WITH REGARD
TO REQUESTING APPROVAL FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF COL. MCFEETERS.
IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN THIS COURSE OF ACTION, I REQUEST
THAT ACTION BE EXPEDITED ON THE EXTENSION OF COL. KERR'S TOUR.
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